



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SPRINGFIELD, TEXAS MEN INDICTED FOR MARIJUANA CONSPIRACY

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Springfield, Mo., man and a Texas man were indicted by a federal grand jury today for participating in a conspiracy to distribute 100 kilograms or more of marijuana in Greene County, Mo.

Jovan A. Ortiz, 22, of Dumas, Texas, and **Ulysses G. Chavez**, 21, of Springfield, were charged in a three-count indictment returned by a federal grand jury in Kansas City.

Count One of the federal indictment alleges that **Ortiz** and **Chavez** participated in a conspiracy to distribute 100 kilograms or more of marijuana in Greene County from May 2004 to July 21, 2004.

Count Two of the federal indictment alleges that **Ortiz** and **Chavez** were in possession with intent to distribute 50 kilograms or more of marijuana in Greene County on July 21, 2004.

Count Three of the federal indictment is a forfeiture count, which would require **Chavez** to forfeit to the government any property derived from the proceeds of the offense alleged in Counts One and Two, or used to commit the alleged offenses, including a 2000 Jaguar.

Graves cautioned that the charges contained in the indictment are simply accusations, and not evidence of guilt. Evidence supporting the charges must be presented to a federal trial jury, whose duty is to determine guilt or innocence.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Randall D. Eggert. It was investigated by the Drug Enforcement Administration and the Springfield, Mo., Police Department.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow